

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: ARA-RBENTLEY

APPROVED BY: ARA-RBENTLEY

S/S-O: PSHANKLE

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TO USDEL ASWAN IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 052727

TOSEC 171

FOL REPEAT OF QUITO 1636 TO SECSTATE INFO CARACAS GUAYAQUIL
MAR 7

QTE:

C O N F I D E N T I A L QUITO 1636

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR EC

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CREDITS USG WITH TRYING TO OVER-
COME DISCRIMINATORY AFFECTS OF TRA

REF: A) STATE 48538 B) QUITO 1556

1. IN A SIGNIFICANT INTERVIEW IN ALGIERS, COVERED BY ALL MAJOR
ECUADOREAN DAILIES ON MARCH 7TH, PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ CREDITED
THE USG WITH MAKING EFFORTS TO REDRESS THOSE PORTIONS OF THE
TRA WHICH PARTICULARLY HIT AT ECUADOR AND VENEZUELA. BOTH
EL TELEGRAFO AND EL UNIVERSO (THE LATTER, THE COUNTRY'S
LARGEST DAILY) PRINTED THE FOLLOWING EXERPT, WHICH WAS ALSO
DISTRIBUTED BY SENDIP (THE OFFICIAL GOE NEWS BUREAU):

2. RODRIGUEZ WAS ASKED "IN THE VIEW OF THE DISCRIMINATORY
MEASURES UNDERTAKEN BY THE RICH COUNTRIES AGAINST THE THIRD
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WORLD, AND IN PARTICULAR THOSE INCLUDED IN THE US TRA, CAN

YOU GIVE US, MR. PRESIDENT, YOUR COMMENTS ON THE ACT AND THE AFFECT IT WILL HAVE ON YOUR COUNTRY'S ECONOMY?" RODRIGUEZ NOTED THAT ECUADOR WAS THE FIRST TO PROTEST THE TRA AND WAS JOINED BY VENEZUELA. HE NOTED THAT ALTHOUGH SOME PORTIONS OF THE ACT WERE HIGHLY FAVORABLE TO TRADE WITH SOME COUNTRIES, IT CONSTITUTED A UNILATERAL BREECH OF THE INTER-AMERICAN AGREEMENT ON RECIPROCAL ASSISTANCE AND THE BOGOTA CHARTER OF 1948. HE SAID IT WAS INCONCEIVABLE THAT SUCH AN EXAGGERATED ACT COULD HAVE BEEN ADOPTED HAD IT BEEN THOROUGHLY THOUGHT THROUGH "IN A COUNTRY WHOSE OFFICIALS HAVE ALWAYS BEEN SO RESPONSIVE, THOUGHTFUL, AND CALM". BUT, HE WENT ON, "WE UNDERSTAND FROM HIGH OFFICIALS IN THE USG THAT THERE IS THE POSSIBILITY THAT CONGRESS AND THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH WILL RECTIFY THOSE PORTIONS OF THE TRA WHICH HAVE CAUSED SUCH A SERIOUS IMPACT ON HEMISPHERIC AND WORLD RELATIONS."

3. WE BELIEVE IT IS SIGNIFICANT THAT THESE REMARKS SHOULD HAVE BEEN GIVEN BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ TO MEMBERS OF THE PRESS IN ALGIERS TWO DAYS AFTER ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS REGISTERED "SURPRISE, SADNESS AND DISAPPOINTMENT" WITH THE GOE REACTION TO THE SECRETARY'S MARCH 1 HOUSTON SPEECH AND ELICITED FROM ECUADOREAN AMBASSADOR CARDENAS THE PROMISE THAT "HE WOULD ADVISE THE FOREIGN OFFICE TO ISSUE A COMMUNIQUE CLARIFYING THE EARLIER STATEMENT. THE REMARKS BY PRESIDENT RODRIGUEZ ALSO SQUARE WITH FOREIGN MINISTRY SUBSECRETARY VALDEZ' COMMENTS TO AMBASSADOR, REPORTED QUITO 1556.
BREWSTER UNQTE INGERSOLL

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